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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Single copies free to persons in the United States from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C., Room 5922. Phone DUDley 8-2445.

Thailand's Agricultural Production Continues to Advance. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 2-61. 8 pp.

U.S.-Polish Trade Developments. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 3-61. 5 pp.

Food Shortages in Communist China--Signs of an Impending Crisis. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 5-61. 8 pp.

Asia, Africa, and Australia Good Markets for U.S. Cotton. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 2-61. 6 pp.

Status of Cotton Purchase Authorizations Under Title I, Public Law 480. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 3-61. 3 pp.

World Trade in Dry Beans Reached 8.5 Million Bags in 1959. Foreign Agriculture Circular FDP 2-61. 3 pp.

World Barley and Oats Production Large. Foreign Agriculture Circular FC 3-61. 6 pp.

U.S. MAIN TOBACCO
SUPPLIER TO GHANA

From January through June 1960, Ghana imported 2.1 million pounds of tobacco, with the United States supplying 1.0 million. The next largest source was India, with 700,000 pounds.

FILTER-TIPPED CIGARETTE SALES
INCREASING IN FRANCE

In 1960, filter-tipped cigarettes accounted for about 10 percent of the cigarettes sold in France.

The tobacco monopoly expects sales of filter-tipped brands to reach 12 to 13 percent of the total in 1961. In 1956, only about 3 percent of the cigarettes smoked by the French were filter-tipped. The monopoly plans to introduce several new filter-tipped brands this year.

French sales of filter-tipped cigarettes have not reached the proportions found in some neighboring countries. About 70 percent of the cigarettes smoked in Switzerland and West Germany are filter-tipped.

CANADIAN FLUE-CURED
TOBACCO SALES

As of February 17, 1961, 164 million pounds of Canadian 1960-crop flue-cured tobacco had been sold at an average price equivalent to about 56 U.S. cents per pound. The tobacco was not treated with maleic hydrazide or similar chemicals.

U.S. CIGARETTE EXPORTS
UP SLIGHTLY IN 1960

U.S. exports of cigarettes rose again in 1960, totaling 20.2 billion pieces, compared with 19.6 billion in 1959. The 1960 exports were the largest since 1948, when the Philippines bought over 11 billion pieces. The United States is now the largest exporter of cigarettes, having taken over first place from the United Kingdom several years ago.

Cigarette exports in 1960 were valued at \$87.5 million, compared with \$84.4 million in 1959.

Principal markets for U.S. cigarettes last year, in order of importance, were: Gibraltar, Hong Kong, France, Netherlands Antilles, Belgium, Singapore, and Kuwait. All of these markets increased their purchases over 1959. Other important markets that took more U.S. cigarettes in 1960 than in 1959 included Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Australia, the Malayan Federation, Denmark, Switzerland, and the Republic of Panama.

Sharp drops were recorded in exports to Morocco, Spain, Venezuela, and Cuba.

CIGARETTES: U.S. exports, by country of destination,
1958-1960

Destination	1958	1959	1960	Percent change 1960 over 1959
	Million pieces	Million pieces	Million pieces	Percent
Gibraltar.....	--	119	1,975	--
Hong Kong.....	1,128	1,365	1,590	+16.5
France.....	1,305	1,202	1,370	+14.0
Netherlands Antilles....	736	838	986	+17.7
Belgium.....	1,030	890	933	+ 4.8
Singapore.....	771	677	877	+29.5
Kuwait.....	514	628	820	+30.6
Sweden.....	581	535	609	+13.8
Netherlands.....	450	537	599	+11.5
Italy.....	470	479	594	+24.0
West Germany.....	460	427	542	+26.9
Japan.....	21	25	509	--
Denmark.....	415	432	469	+8.6
Switzerland.....	269	314	455	+44.9
Ecuador.....	403	472	446	-5.5
Morocco.....	2,107	2,392	415	-82.7
Panama, Republic of....	258	306	385	+25.8
Malayan Federation.....	136	256	374	+46.1
Peru.....	261	302	372	+23.2
Australia.....	1	103	368	+257.3
Canada.....	312	302	299	-1.0
Colombia.....	350	262	269	+2.7
Spain.....	11	515	231	-55.1
Venezuela.....	2,507	2,260	116	-94.9
Cuba.....	453	438	35	-92.0
Others.....	3,118	3,500	4,592	+31.2
Total.....	18,067	19,576	20,230	+3.3

JAPAN AND GREECE
SIGN TRADE PACT

On February 7, 1961, Japan and Greece signed a one-year trade agreement effective October 1, 1960.

Under the new pact, which replaces an open-account agreement that expired March 31, 1960, Japanese products will receive the same treatment in Greece as similar products from the OEEC countries. Japan will import raisins, cotton, wines, emery, and marble from Greece under global quotas.

According to trade reports, the Japan Monopoly Corporation expects to purchase about \$1 million worth of Greek leaf tobacco under the agreement.

In 1958, Japan imported Greek tobacco valued at \$181,000. No imports were received from Greece in 1959, and data are not yet available for 1960. Japan's imports of cotton and raisins from Greece in 1959 were valued at \$2.5 and \$1.2 million, respectively.

Average Japanese imports of all commodities from Greece in recent years were slightly over \$4 million. Total Japanese exports to Greece were \$3.7 million in 1955, \$25 million in 1959, and \$40 million from January through November 1960.

ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN WOOL EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Raw wool exports from Argentina and Uruguay increased sharply in the first quarter of the 1960-61 season (October-September) from the low levels of the previous year.

Carryover stocks in the 2 countries were large, but these have moved readily into export channels this season, particularly in Uruguay where reductions in export taxes have been an encouraging factor.

Argentine shipments from October through December 1960 totaled 73 million pounds, compared with 50 million a year ago. The United States continued as the leading market, but shipments to the United Kingdom showed the largest gain.

Uruguayan exports in the same period were 23 million pounds, compared with only 4 million in 1959. The United States and the United Kingdom were the principal markets.

Wool exports from both countries are expected to increase during the remainder of the season. Most of the Uruguayan clip and carryover have been sold in recent months. Uruguayan exports of 19 million pounds in January 1961 were the largest since March 1959.

GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS REVALUE CURRENCIES

Effective March 5, 1961, Germany and the Netherlands revalued their currencies upward.

The currencies of both countries became 5 percent more expensive in terms of the dollar. The new rate for the Deutsche mark is now DM 4.00 equals \$1; formerly, the rate was DM 4.20 equals \$1. The new rate for the Netherlands guilder is now Fls. 3.62 equals \$1; formerly, the rate was Fls. 3.8 equals \$1.

MORE AUSTRALIAN BEEF SHIPPED TO U.S.

Five ships left Australia in February with 1,899,520 pounds of frozen beef for the United States. The vessels, sailing dates, and destinations are as follows:

Ship	Sailing date	Destination <u>1/</u>	Quantity
			1,000 pounds
Crusader.....	February 10	San Francisco	11,200
Pioneer Reef.....	do. 12	New York	33,600
Martha Bakke.....	do. 18	Los Angeles	73,920
		San Francisco	62,720
		Portland	31,360
		Seattle	96,320
Pioneer Glen.....	February 21	New York	739,200
		Boston	51,520
		Charleston	71,680
Monterey.....	February 24	Los Angeles	427,840
		San Francisco	300,160

1/ Cities listed indicate location of purchaser and usually the port of arrival and general market area, but the meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

The Lloyd Bakke, which left Australia January 28 (Foreign Crops and Markets, February 13, 1961), carried only 103,040 pounds for Seattle.

U.S. EXPORTS OF SAUSAGE CASINGS DECLINE SHARPLY

U.S. exports of hog and other natural sausage casings dropped sharply in 1960.

Reduced imports of hog casings by the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, and West Germany accounted for most of the 16-percent decline from the high level of 1959.

Exports of other natural casings dropped nearly 10 percent in 1960. Shipments were lower to most countries but West Germany, Norway, and Switzerland accounted for almost all of the decline. Spain emerged as the leading export market for U.S. sausage casings in 1960.

The decline in sausage casings exports is due primarily to increased competition from synthetic casings.

SAUSAGE CASINGS, NATURAL: U.S. exports by country
of destination, 1957-60

Country of destination	1957	1958	1959	1960 <u>1/</u>	Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1960
	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>pounds</u>
<u>Hog casings</u>					
Canada.....	88	23	103	455	+352
United Kingdom.....	2,617	3,106	3,977	2,522	-1,455
Netherlands.....	852	650	1,016	635	-381
Belgium.....	650	545	896	639	-257
Germany, West.....	1,004	769	1,351	1,165	-186
Switzerland.....	336	207	452	668	+216
Spain.....	620	634	601	762	+161
Union of South Africa..	371	411	430	579	+149
Australia.....	935	1,061	1,076	1,292	+216
New Zealand.....	633	546	661	399	-262
Others.....	296	327	454	191	-263
Total.....	8,402	8,279	11,017	9,307	-1,710
<u>Other animal casings 2/</u>					
Canada.....	361	303	293	379	+86
Cuba.....	182	133	125	44	-81
Sweden.....	59	29	25	18	-7
Norway.....	774	761	634	335	-299
Denmark.....	45	56	115	63	-52
United Kingdom.....	178	151	285	221	-64
Netherlands.....	1,243	320	352	404	+52
Belgium.....	579	198	199	178	-21
Germany, West.....	2,511	1,650	1,783	953	-830
Switzerland.....	1,634	1,499	1,685	1,579	-106
Spain.....	2,394	3,063	1,629	2,154	+525
Others.....	150	245	269	350	+81
Total.....	10,110	8,408	7,394	6,678	-716

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Casings not elsewhere classified, mainly beef.

Bureau of the Census.

MEXICAN WINTER
VEGETABLE SHIPMENTS

From February 1 through 15, winter vegetables from the west coast of Mexico crossed the border at Nogales, Arizona, in the following quantities (in thousands of pounds): cantaloupes, 95; green corn, 11; cucumbers, 543; eggplant, 209; okra, 2; peas, 1,051; pepper, 1,186; squash, 123; snap beans, 541; tomatoes, 15,773; and watermelons, 65.

AUSTRALIA EXPECTS SMALLER DRIED APRICOT AND PEACH PACKS IN 1961

Australia's 1961 dried apricot and peach packs are expected to be substantially below last year's production because of smaller fresh fruit crops ("Australia's Canned Deciduous Pack Drops Sharply," page 13).

Dried apricot production in 1961 is expected to show a substantial decline from 1960 production of 2,300 short tons. Few fresh apricots were available for drying because of heavy demand from canners and the fresh market.

Strong demand for fresh peaches from canners also reduced the fruit available for drying, and a sharp drop in dried peach production is anticipated when compared with 1960 production of 800 tons.

ARGENTINA RAISES FLAXSEED SUPPORT PRICE

Argentina will support its 1961-62 flaxseed crop at 690 pesos per metric quintal (\$2.12 per bushel), compared with 600 pesos (\$1.85) for the 1960-61 crop. Government officials are hopeful that the increase will be an incentive to expand plantings.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS DECLINE IN 1960

Argentine grain exports from July through December 1960 totaled 2.6 million metric tons--down slightly from 1959. Wheat exports were 39 per cent larger, while corn exports were down 35 percent.

Wheat exports totaled 1.2 million tons, compared with 0.9 million in July-December 1959. Shipments to the principal importers, with increases shown in tons in parentheses, were: Brazil, 640,000 tons (166,000); Chile, 125,000 (75,000); and Peru, 106,000 (59,000). Exports to Paraguay, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom were also larger.

Corn exports totaled 1.1 million tons, compared with 1.7 million in the previous season. The reduction was largely in shipments to Western Europe where a good crop was harvested in 1960. Shipments to principal importers, with decreases shown in tons in parentheses, were: Belgium-Luxembourg, 81,000 tons (107,000); West Germany, 44,000 (71,000); Italy, 551,000 (87,000); the Netherlands, 194,000 (151,000).

Exports of rye and oats totaled 188,000 tons, or 140,000 more than in the previous season. Larger shipments to Italy accounted for most of the increase in both cases. Exports of barley and grain sorghums were 68,000 and 35,000 tons, respectively, down 36,000 and 58,000 from the previous year.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-December 1959 and July-December 1960

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghums	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-December 1959:							
United States	--	--	1,657	--	--	--	1,657
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	75	75
Brazil	474,068	--	--	2,454	6,143	--	482,665
Chile	50,000	--	--	--	--	--	50,000
Paraguay	39,508	--	--	--	--	--	39,508
Peru	47,325	--	2,210	--	--	--	49,535
Uruguay	10,870	500	840	2,001	7,985	--	22,196
Austria	--	6,629	3,135	--	--	150	9,914
Belgium-Luxembourg:	2,825	1,172	188,021	1,000	--	18,642	211,660
Denmark	--	200	1,650	1,000	--	3,740	6,590
France	14,760	--	2,890	--	--	--	17,650
West Germany	96,485	15,123	114,691	4,140	77,594	6,700	314,733
Italy	22,472	1,098	637,572	7,840	8,638	2,268	679,888
Netherlands	24,670	3,358	344,754	--	2,358	53,599	428,739
Sweden	--	1,200	3,650	--	--	235	5,085
Switzerland	1,000	--	13,146	--	--	--	14,146
United Kingdom ...	51,334	800	217,701	--	--	8,056	277,891
Japan	--	--	181,793	--	--	--	181,793
Lebanon	19,015	--	--	--	1,350	--	20,365
Total	854,332	30,080	1,713,710	18,435	104,068	93,465	2,814,090
July-December 1960:							
United States	--	--	37	--	--	--	37
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	100	100
Barbados	--	--	--	--	--	51	51
Bolivia	500	--	--	--	--	--	500
Brazil	640,367	--	--	2,581	--	--	642,948
Chile	125,093	--	--	5,350	--	--	130,443
Paraguay	43,136	--	--	--	--	--	43,136
Peru	109,526	--	--	--	--	--	109,526
Uruguay	--	--	8,729	143	--	--	8,872
Austria	4,200	7,345	965	--	--	--	12,510
Belgium-Luxembourg:	9,819	1,620	80,694	2,300	--	4,201	98,634
Denmark	--	325	725	9,325	--	1,875	12,250
France	--	--	10,000	--	--	--	10,000
West Germany	54,528	5,565	43,684	8,978	17,501	2,223	132,479
Italy	51,595	56,427	550,541	57,203	47,750	2,541	766,057
Netherlands	32,487	--	193,782	15,192	1,665	14,727	257,853
Portugal	10,310	--	--	--	--	--	10,310
Sweden	500	12,149	850	1,300	--	55	14,854
Switzerland	2,330	--	4,200	2,460	--	200	9,190
United Kingdom ...	61,021	--	81,056	--	--	9,109	151,186
Japan	--	--	139,837	--	--	--	139,837
Lebanon	46,131	--	--	--	736	--	46,867
North Africa	--	--	2,528	--	--	--	2,528
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	24	24
Total	1,191,543	83,431	1,117,628	104,832	67,652	35,106	2,600,192

COLOMBIA LOWERS SOYBEAN PRICE SUPPORT

Colombia has temporarily reduced its previously announced price support for 1961-crop soybeans.

The first price support of \$3.75 per bushel (Foreign Crops and Markets, January 30, 1961) was lowered to \$3.00 until further studies on production costs can establish a basis for a more realistic support rate.

Vegetable shortening makers opposed the higher support, maintaining that \$3.75 soybeans would require an increase in the price of shortening to consumers. Because the government had previously set a maximum price for shortening, manufacturers would be confronted with a severe price squeeze.

ACREAGE SUBSIDY RESTORED TO BELGIAN FLAX GROWERS

A subsidy of \$10.12 per acre has been fixed for the 1961 flax crop in Belgium.

The basis of acreage determination will be the area under flax as of May 15, 1961. The total subsidy is expected to equal about \$800,000 and will be paid through the Agricultural Fund.

Acreage decreased from an average of about 82,400 acres in 1951 through 1956 to about 52,000 in 1959. Subsidies of \$16.19 per acre to growers in 1957 and 1958, and \$20.23 in 1959, supplemented by about \$112 per worker in the processing industry beginning in 1958, failed to increase flax production, and subsidies were discontinued in 1960.

The government, however, felt it necessary to exert further effort in 1961 to make cultivation so profitable that this important industry could be maintained at a more normal level in spite of strong competition from other countries.

FRANCE INCREASES RICE TRADE

French rice exports in 1960 rose 28 percent; exports classified as "milled rice" totaled 20,000 metric tons--almost double those in 1959.

The largest quantities went to the Ivory Coast and French territories. Exports of paddy and semimilled rice declined slightly; they were shipped mainly to the United Kingdom and Algeria.

France also increased imports of milled and broken rice. The principal countries of origin were Cambodia, Malagasy Republic (Madagascar), and Vietnam. Net imports of rice, at 62,395 tons, were 1,835 tons below 1959.

RICE: French imports and exports, 1959 and 1960

Country of origin	Imports		Country of destination	Exports	
	1959	1960		1959	1960
	Metric tons	Metric tons		Metric tons	Metric tons
Paddy or brown:			Paddy or brown:		
Algeria.....	0	215	Algeria.....	4,039	3,130
Italy.....	1,973	1,934	Israel.....	2,178	0
Malagasy.....	0	198	United Kingdom...	0	2,202
Morocco.....	1,453	594	Others.....	1	148
Total.....	3,426	2,941	Total.....	6,218	5,480
Milled:			Milled:		
Algeria.....	0	313	Algeria.....	1,110	1,125
Cambodia.....	156	997	Austria.....	0	198
Italy.....	203	214	Cameroon.....	554	--
Malagasy.....	11,853	16,154	Guadeloupe.....	1,624	1,474
Morocco.....	5,168	2,686	Guinea.....	956	--
Vietnam.....	738	729	Ivory Coast.....	0	11,539
U.S.A.....	0	7	Fr. Equatorial		
Others.....	60	17	Africa.....	1,337	--
Total.....	18,178	21,117	French West Africa..	4,351	--
Broken:			Other French over-		
Cambodia.....	53,825	52,610	seas territories:	1,101	2,661
Cameroon.....	0	154	Portugese Africa:	--	1,485
Italy.....	133	0	Togo.....	783	--
Malagasy.....	1,787	0	Tunisia.....	42	1,051
Morocco.....	646	599	Others.....	92	451
Vietnam.....	6,776	11,049	Total.....	11,950	19,984
Others.....	57	373	Broken:		
Total.....	63,224	64,785	Algeria.....	1,828	283
Total rice....	84,828	88,843	Cameroon.....	540	--
Net imports....	64,230	62,395	Ivory Coast.....	--	59
			Others.....	62	642
			Total.....	2,430	984
			Total rice.....	20,598	26,448

Compiled from official sources.

LARD IMPORTS

RISE 20 PERCENT IN U. K.

Lard imports into the United Kingdom in 1960 totaled 453 million pounds--the highest since World War II. Imports in the second half of the year, however, were slightly below a year earlier, reflecting higher U.S. prices.

In 1960, the United States supplied a large share of the U.K. lard market, accounting for 78 percent of imports, compared with only 56 percent in 1958. Development of bulk lard handling in tankers in early 1959 contributed greatly to the increased trade by making U.S. lard more competitive.

Current higher prices for U.S. lard will likely result in reduced U.K. imports in 1961.

LARD: United Kingdom imports by country of origin, and country percentage of total, 1959 and 1960

Origin	1959		1960	
	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total
	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United States.....	281,165	74.6	354,612	78.3
France.....	40,984	10.9	50,116	11.1
Belgium.....	11,228	3.0	15,914	3.5
Denmark.....	17,959	4.8	15,506	3.4
Netherlands.....	12,595	3.3	9,995	2.2
Sweden.....	3,274	0.9	3,128	0.7
Canada.....	9,643	2.5	1,618	0.3
Others.....	136	--	2,231	0.5
Total.....	376,984	100.0	453,120	100.0

U.S. Packers Provision Agents' Committee.

ZANZIBAR'S CLOVE STOCKS LARGE

The Clove Growers Association of Zanzibar continues to carry over a heavy stock of cloves as a result of large 1957-58 and 1959-60 crops.

Long-run prospects for the clove industry in Zanzibar are considered to be reasonably good, although exports to India and Indonesia--the principal consumers--were recently reduced. Cloves are used as a spice in India and a flavoring in Indonesia.

Cloves, clove stems, and clove oil represent 75 to 80 percent of the value of Zanzibar's total exports. The export duty on cloves constitutes over one-fourth of government revenue in an average year, while revenue from income taxes and license fees can be largely traced to the clove industry. The government is conducting experiments to determine the feasibility of establishing other money crops, notably citrus and cocoa.

AUSTRALIA'S CANNED DECIDUOUS PACK DROPS SHARPLY

The 1961 Australian canned apricot and peach packs are substantially below last year's production while the canned pear pack is expected to be equal to, or only slightly below, the 1960 output.

The canned apricot pack is estimated between 250,000 and 300,000 cases, or about half the 1960 pack of 576,000 cases.

Fresh apricot production was much smaller because of a light set in the states of Victoria and New South Wales. In South Australia, the fresh crop was larger than last year's, but extremely hot weather just prior to harvest rendered much fruit unsuitable for canning. To some extent, hot weather prior to harvest also damaged the already small crops in Victoria and New South Wales, reducing the quantity of fruit available for canning to the lowest in some years.

The 1961 canned peach pack is expected to be about 25 percent smaller than last year's production of 2,045,000 cases, possibly approximating 1,500,000 cases.

Fresh peach production in the main producing areas was also substantially below 1960. Fruit set was light in some areas, while hail and insect infestations reduced both the quantity and quality of the remaining fresh fruit. Unusually heavy infestation of Rutherglen bugs in Victoria led to severe skin damage necessitating heavy peeling.

The 1961 canned pear pack is expected to be approximately 2 million cases, or about the same as last year.

Production of canning pears in the principal producing districts has been good, with some heavy crops in evidence in the Goulburn Valley. The Packham variety is reported to be carrying somewhat lighter crops than last year, but only negligible quantities of this variety are being canned. About 100,000 bushels of fresh pears have reportedly been sold for export to the United Kingdom. Additional exports of fresh pears may reduce the canned pear pack slightly.

DROUGHT TO CUT WHEAT CROP IN WEST PAKISTAN

A drought in West Pakistan, although relieved by showers in late December and heavy rains in January and February, is expected to reduce the 1961 wheat harvest by about 20 to 30 percent.

The drought was severe in October and November, the optimum sowing period. Extensive areas, however, were seeded after the December showers, but this acreage will not produce a high yield if hot weather arrives at the usual time--late March and April. Wheat is usually harvested from March to mid-May.

Release of government stocks of imported wheat at 16 rupees per maund (\$2.37 per bushel) has failed to hold down prices of domestic wheat, which has been selling at 17.5 to 18.5 rupees per maund (\$2.68 to \$2.84 per bushel).

Despite a record crop of 3,938,000 metric tons in 1960, imports from May 1960 through April 1961 will be about 1,449,000 tons, a 56-percent increase over 1959-60.

U.S. CATTLE AND MEAT IMPORTS DROP IN 1960

U.S. imports of livestock and meat products in 1960 were substantially below the previous year.

Imports of red meat were 23 percent below 1959. Beef and veal imports were down 29 percent; mutton, 21 percent; pork, 2 percent; and variety meats, 24 percent. Lamb imports, however, were 31 percent higher than in the previous year.

Availability of domestic supplies and strong world demand for beef made the United States a less attractive market in 1960. Imports of lightly salted beef from South America were not permitted in 1960.

Decreased imports of mutton reflected lower U.S. prices of processing beef. Lamb prices in the United States, however, continued high relative to prices in Australia and New Zealand, and imports rose to the highest levels in at least 40 years. Imports of lamb in 1960 amounted to only 12.4 million pounds--1.8 percent of domestic lamb and yearling production.

Imports of cattle hides were 68 percent below 1959 owing to heavy U.S. cattle slaughter, which increased supplies and lowered prices of hides and skins. Imports of other hides and skins were 13 to 23 percent below the previous year.

Wool imports were 22 percent below 1959, reflecting a moderate decline in domestic wool manufacturing during 1960.

Domestic demand for sausage continued strong, and imports of natural casings were considerably higher than in 1959.

Increased U.S. demand for feeder cattle encouraged larger imports in December. During the month, imports totaled 118,071 head, or 86 percent above December 1959. Imports of 82,000 Mexican feeders (200 to 700 pounds) were the largest for any month in 1960. Relatively high U.S. beef prices and lower feed prices, coupled with short feed supplies in Mexico, contributed to the increase.

Because of large cattle imports in December, imports for 1960 were only 6 percent below the 708,755 head received in 1959, but considerably below the record 1,152,407 head that entered in 1958.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS: U.S. imports of selected items, December 1959 and 1960
January-December 1959 and 1960, with percentage change

(Product weight basis)

Commodity	December		Percent change	January-December		Percent change
	1959	1960		1959	1960	
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>		<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Red meats:						
Fresh, frozen, canned:						
and cured beef and :						
veal.....	59,387	28,581	-52	626,249	491,297	-22
Other meats <u>1/</u>	1,037	3,372	+225	96,099	21,309	-78
Total beef & veal..	60,424	31,953	-47	722,348	512,606	-29
Pork.....	13,484	13,382	-1	174,946	171,313	-2
Mutton.....	5,020	2,745	-45	47,349	37,306	-21
Lamb.....	492	1,207	+145	9,455	12,431	+31
Total red meat.....	79,420	49,287	-38	954,098	733,658	-23
Variety meats.....	167	68	-59	2,295	1,751	-24
Sausage casings:						
Sheep and goat.....	395	333	-16	4,486	5,105	+14
Other natural.....	774	1,030	+33	10,112	10,582	+5
Wool (clean basis):						
Dutiable.....	9,271	6,381	-31	100,219	74,144	-26
Duty-free.....	10,546	8,262	-22	191,547	153,915	-20
Total wool.....	19,817	14,643	-26	291,766	228,059	-22
Hides & skins (1,000						
pieces):						
Cattle.....	41	18	-56	1,025	332	-68
Calf and kip.....	123	151	+23	1,566	1,363	-13
Sheep and lamb.....	1,053	980	-7	34,273	27,702	-19
Goat and kid.....	1,805	1,126	-38	25,414	19,255	-23
Live cattle (number)	63,590	118,071	+86	708,755	663,174	-6

1/ Other meat, canned, prepared, or preserved; mostly lightly salted boneless beef from South America in the first half of 1959.

U.S. Department of Commerce.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON DECLINE IN NOVEMBER

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through U.S. ports were 63,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in November 1960--down 35 percent from the 97,000 bales in October, but up 67 percent from the 42,000 bales in November 1959. Transshipments during August-November 1960 totaled 365,000 bales, compared with 411,000 bales in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Quantities shipped to principal destinations during August-November 1960, with comparable 1959 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 95,000 bales (76,000); France 68,000 (69,000); Italy 47,000 (35,000); Japan 37,000 (73,000); and Belgium 17,000 (19,000).

U.S. ports through which most of the Mexican transshipments moved in the August-November period were: Brownsville (349,000 bales), San Diego (10,000), Galveston (2,000), and Houston (1,000).

SOME MEXICAN IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1960

Last year, Mexican imports of corn, beans, tobacco, tallow, and baby chicks declined, but larger quantities of powdered milk, barley, and rice were purchased abroad.

In 1960, Mexico exported 18 million bushels of corn. Shipments of raw and refined sugar rose to 498,000 short tons from 164,000 in 1959. Exports of cattle, coffee, peanuts, pineapples, strawberries, melons, peppers, peas, garlic, and onions also increased. Shipments of beef, cotton, henequen fiber and twine, cottonseed cake and meal, oranges, bananas, tomatoes, and cocoa declined.

SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Mexican imports, 1959-60 1/

Product	Unit	1959	1960
Corn.....	1,000 bu.	1,275	330
Beans.....	2/ 1,000 bags	726	325
Tobacco.....	Mil. lb.	8	5
Tallow.....	1,000 S.T.	6	3
Baby chicks.....	1,000 head	4,286	2,690
Powdered milk.....	Mil. lb.	21	25
Barley.....	1,000 bu.	1,322	2,378
Rice.....	Mil. lb.	3/	50

1/ Preliminary and does not include free-port entries.

2/ Bags of 100 pounds each.

3/ Less than 500 thousand pounds.

SELECTED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Mexican exports,
1959 and 1960 1/

Product	Unit	1959	1960
Corn.....	1,000 bu.	2/	18,000
Sugar, raw.....	1,000 S.T.	82	130
Sugar, refined.....	do.	82	370
Coffee, green.....	1,000 bags <u>3/</u>	1,240	1,385
Cattle.....	1,000 head	374	395
Peanuts, unshelled.....	1,000 S.T.	4	4
Peanuts, shelled.....	do.	3	7
Pineapples, fresh.....	Mil. lb.	32	35
Pineapples, pres.....	do.	26	35
Strawberries, frozen.....	do.	20	30
Watermelons.....	do.	57	75
Cantaloupes.....	do.	67	100
Peppers, fresh.....	do.	22	25
Peppers, dried.....	do.	2	4
Peas, fresh.....	do.	6	6
Garlic.....	do.	10	13
Onions.....	do.	13	17
Beef.....	do.	47	40
Cotton, ginned.....	1,000 bales <u>4/</u>	1,862	1,420
Cotton linters.....	do.	172	84
Henequen fiber.....	Mil. lb.	102	47
Henequen twine.....	do.	133	110
Cottonseed cake and meal.....	do.	434	129
Oranges.....	1,000 boxes <u>5/</u>	857	748
Bananas.....	1,000 bunches <u>6/</u>	1,262	400
Tomatoes.....	Mil. lb.	334	285
Cocoa.....	do.	12	5

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Less than 500 bushels.

3/ Bags of 132.276 pounds each.

4/ Bales of 480 pounds.

5/ Boxes of 70 pounds.

6/ Bunches of 50 pounds.

NETHERLANDS WHALE OIL OUTPUT
BEHIND LAST YEAR

The Netherlands 1960-61 Antarctic whaling expedition has produced 11,465 short tons of whale oil and 1,420 tons of sperm oil through February 14, 1961--the approximate mid-point of the season.

At the same time last year, 12,755 tons of whale oil and 353 tons of sperm oil had been produced.

The current season began November 28, 1960--18 days earlier than in 1959-60.

ARGENTINE PEANUT ACREAGE DOWN; PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO RISE

In Argentina, peanut acreage this season is slightly smaller than last year's plantings, but production is expected to be somewhat larger.

The first official estimate for 1960-61 places acreage at 484,315 acres. Growing conditions, however, have been favorable, and per unit yields are expected to be larger than a year ago. Unofficially, the out-turn is forecast at about 237,000 short tons of unshelled nuts--up slightly from the previous year.

Final official estimates of the 1959-60 crop are 230,710 tons of unshelled peanuts produced from 495,190 planted and 468,255 harvested acres.

Argentina exported 51,416 tons of peanut oil in 1960, compared with 3,555 tons in 1959 and 61,331 tons in 1958. The small exports of 1959 were due to the generally poor crop and low production of all vegetable oils during 1958-59. Small quantities of peanut oil may have moved out early in 1961, but most of the exportable supplies from last year's crop already have been exported.

The market price for peanut oil early in March 1961 was 27 pesos per kilo (14.8 cents per pound), Buenos Aires port, compared with 11 pesos per kilo (6.0 cents) in mid-January. The minimum support price for 1960-61 crop peanuts is 780 pesos per 100 kilos (4.3 cents).

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS CONTINUE HEAVY

In January, U.S. exports of all types of cotton amounted to 979,000 running bales--about equal to December exports of 982,000 bales, although 12 percent below the unusually large January 1960 exports of 1,109,000 bales.

Exports during the first half (August-January) of the current season totaled 3,427,000 bales, an increase of 7 percent from shipments of 3,206,000 bales in the corresponding 1959-60 period.

When available, comparable figures in 500-pound-gross-weight bales and destinations of the August-January 1960-61 exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets.

ECUADOR PLANS EXPANSION OF OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Ecuador needs a dependable source of domestically produced edible oils for home consumption.

As a result, the National Planning Board, in coordination with the Ministry of Development, plans to expand the African oil palm industry in Ecuador to overcome the deficiency.

The undertaking will cost approximately 59 million sucres (\$3.3 million), to be divided as follows: investments, scholarships, and equipment, S/4 million; operation of experimental stations, S/5 million; agricultural credit and industrial equipment, S/50 million. The plan, which contemplates credit at 6 percent interest per year, is to develop the area of Santo Domingo-Chone-Quevedo.

To encourage domestic production of edible oils, Ecuador announced late in 1960 that credit would be made available for loans to oilseed producers in 1961 (Foreign Crops and Markets, January 2, 1961).

U.S. COTTON IMPORTS LOWER IN 1960-61

During the first half (August-January) of the current cotton season, U.S. imports of cotton for consumption totaled 115,000 bales (500 pounds gross)--9 percent less than the 127,000 bales imported in the first half of 1959-60. Quantities imported from major sources in August-January 1960-61, with comparable 1959-60 figures in parentheses, were: Egypt 68,000 bales (67,000); Mexico 29,000 (38,000); and Peru 15,000 (15,000).

Imports in January amounted to only 374 bales, compared with 931 bales in December, and 2,284 in January 1960. Nearly all of the January 1961 imports were short, harsh cotton from Pakistan, Burma, and India.

The above figures do not include imports of cotton in the form of picker lap, which is not subject to quota. Imports under the "basket category" in which picker lap is included amounted to about 49,000 bales (raw cotton equivalent) during calendar year 1960, against only 9,757 bales in 1959. January 1961 imports totaled 784 bales, compared with 2,942 bales in the same month a year earlier.

U.S. TIGHTENS CONTROL OF EXPORTS TO CUBA

On March 10, 1961, the United States removed certain items from the list of commodities exportable to Cuba under General License GCU (§ 371.27).

Official Business

Since October 20, 1960, only certain foods, medicines, and medical supplies have been exportable to Cuba under general license.

Commodities deleted from the list now require a validated license for exportation to Cuba. Included are: edible animals; natural sausage casings; edible tallow; hatching eggs; barley malt; brewers' corn grits (crude); brewers' flakes; brewers' rice malt; brewers' wheat flakes; buckwheat; buckwheat in the grain, for feed; rice polishings; rye malt; seed buckwheat; unhulled ground oats; dry beans; seed beans; seed peas; refined vegetable oils not further processed by deodorizing, hydrogenating, or winterizing; vegetable oil foots, including soap stock and fatty acids of vegetable origin; secondary vegetable oils and fats, n.e.c.; refined vegetable waxes; malt extract, malt sirup, and malt sugar; antibiotic and vitamin feed supplements; and veterinary medicinals and preparations, n.e.c.

Some agricultural items have been added to the list of commodities exportable to Cuba under general license. Included are: natural cheese in loaves or in pieces (other than American cheddar cheese); shelled or unshelled popcorn (other than popcorn seed); cornstarch packaged in one-pound packages or less; and shelled, blanched, roasted, and salted peanuts.